

The French Broad Hustler

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HENDERSONVILLE, N. C.

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LATIN IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We are having some interesting discussions, just now, as to making Latin elective in our public schools. This is a question of vital importance, and one that every one, who has an interest in our schools, should be thinking about seriously.

There is a great tendency among school children to discard Latin and devote their time to something, (as they claim,) that will do them more good. Over half of the pupils in the Latin classes will question the wisdom of their teacher having them take this study. Some of the questions that every teacher is asked are these: "What is the use of studying a dead language?" Would not the time devoted to some other study be more beneficial to me?" The children have heard some one, who is opposed to the study of Latin, make such remarks. With this sentiment against Latin, the teacher has to do the best he can to create respect, if not a liking for it.

If this question of selection is left to the children, there will be but few found studying Latin, for a boy will generally select the studies that require the least effort on his part to prepare his recitation.

If Latin should be left out, what study would take its place? We know of nothing that can take its place. An education means a trained mind, a mind that can think and draw logical conclusions; and Latin is one of the very best mind trainers. Furthermore, if Latin should be made elective, a boy who had failed to take it in the public school would find himself in a predicament if he should decide to enter college or a university. Some will say there is the high school, but our public schools are taking the place of the high schools. The curriculum has been raised in our "special tax" districts and graded schools, so that a boy who has finished the "free school" course can enter freshman class in most of our institutions. He would be embarrassed to be so far behind with his Latin, that doubtless he would leave it out of his course altogether. If he had been required to study it in the public school, he would take a degree. Suppose this same boy decides to study medicine, or law. The knowledge of Latin is very essential, of course, he can by hard work overcome this deficiency. This conclusion, then, leads us to say that a boy does not know what is best for him; he must have some one to decide for him until he is competent to make his own decisions. Just a little comparison of to-day to that of Milton. All of the great writers knew Latin in Milton's day. They considered Greek and Latin not only essential, but a necessity to a thorough education. If Latin and Greek were essential to such men as Milton, Byron and Tennyson, it is essential to us. We know this, that when our colleges and universities made Greek and Latin compulsory we had more thoroughly educated men.

It is not The Hustler's intention to discuss, at length, the various phases of this question, but simply to call the attention of the teachers of Henderson County to the importance of insisting that every pupil, who is prepared for the study of Latin be required to take it.

Mr. Bruce Craven, in the Charlotte Observer of July 22, discusses this question very admirably. We wish that every boy and girl in North Carolina had an opportunity of reading what Mr. Craven has so wisely said.

In conclusion we quote his con-

cluding remarks:

1st. "Latin should remain in the preparatory schools until some substitute of greater value is found to take its place.

2. "To make 'aptitude' the test of preparatory schools would be equivalent to excluding it.

3. "To make 'aptitude' the test of what a child should study would completely upset the whole educational system which is maintained to train the children for usefulness and not merely to satisfy their appetites.

4. "This movement is a part of the general tendency of the times toward the things of immediate value, which among the children can only mean present ease and pleasure at the expense of their future usefulness.

In the absence of Editor M. L. Shipman we are reproducing in this issue the sketch of his life, which appeared in the Southern Publisher, Charlotte, N. C., and the address he delivered before the North Carolina Press Association at Morehead City last month. When the request came from Charlotte paper for a cut, or photograph, of Mr. Shipman and a corrected copy of his address he was at Jamestown, Va., attending the National Convention of Labor Statisticians, but a friend in charge of the office succeeded in finding a photo, and forwarded it as requested. This statement is made in justice to Mr. Shipman, who, had he been at home when the letter came, would doubtless have sent a later picture, and who was not aware that said publication would be made until advised upon his return from Jamestown. The kindness, upon the part of the Southern Publisher, is fully appreciated by the editor and his friends here and elsewhere.

The matter of freight rates is now receiving the attention of Governor Glenn and the other State officers who have to do with the adjustment of the question. An effort is being made to have freight rates in this State regulated and the people generally are greatly interested in the result of this investigation, for all of them, the manufacturers and business men especially, have been made to suffer because of extortionate and some times discriminatory rates. The Governor has asked for a conference with representatives of all railroads doing business in this State and expresses the hope that an agreement may be reached without becoming involved in a legal contest, as in the case of passenger rates. However, such a result is scarcely to be expected.

During the past two weeks the attention of the whole country has been riveted upon Governor Robert B. Glenn, on account of the great victory he achieved for the State in the passenger rate controversy. Many of the big city papers are advocating his nomination for the presidency. But the Governor laughs at the latter suggestion and declares the time is not ripe to nominate a Southern man. However, if the convention determines to name him as its candidate he could not do otherwise than make the race. A good many republican newspapers are lavish in their praise of our distinguished governor. Well, too much cannot be said in commendation of his action in the matters related and North Carolinians will hold him in grateful remembrance.

North Carolina week at the Jamestown Exposition begins on Monday, August 12. Wednesday and Thursday of that week will be the "red letters" days and every Tar Heel, who possibly can, should be there and assist in making the occasion the biggest event of the entire exposition. All railroads are offering attractive rates and special inducements of various kinds to get the people interested in the affair. If you have not already visited historic old

Jamestown and intend to go sometime before the Exposition closes, make an especial effort to make the trip during North Carolina week. You will be glad afterwards to have gone at that time. Governor Glenn and his staff and the entire military force of the State are going then and 50,000 North Carolinians ought to "lend enchantment to the scene."

Hon. John Sharpe Williams, minority leader in the lower house of congress, has defeated Governor Vardaman of his State (Mississippi) for United States Senator will succeed Senator Money in 1911. It was a hard-fought battle and Mr. Williams had a close call. His success in that contest will aid mightily in winning the minority leadership of the next House and the prediction is already made that he may be the democratic leader in the Senate when he reaches that body.

Those railroad companies that decided to oppose the operation of the rate law in North Carolina have discovered, by sad experience, that the representatives of bond clippers gave them some mighty poor advice. Possibly they thought the State would again yield to the decree of their old friend, the Federal court, as she had so often done before in matters affecting the railroads. But the limit had been reached and patience ceased to be a virtue.

And now the railroad attorneys are saying they were eluded into submission in the rate controversy by the State authorities. Even Judge Pritchard feels aggrieved because North Carolina did not submit to his unwarranted attempt to suspend a state law. This is, indeed, interesting. They evidently forget who commenced the clubbing business.

Taft has been declared the choice of the Ohio republicans for president over the protest of Senator Foraker, who is a receptive candidate himself. The endorsement of Taft sounds the death knell of "Fire Alarm" Foraker, politically; and few tears will be shed on account of this fact. He has long been waving "the bloody shirt" and does not yet appear to know that the war is over.

Now there can be "a better understanding between the people and the railroads." Neither should seek to oppress the other, as both are dependent one upon the other. The people of North Carolina are just and will redress any wrong which may have been imposed upon an individual citizen, or corporation, if convinced of the fact.

Inferior Federal courts are no longer "the whole show" in North Carolina, thanks to the wisdom and courage of her brave and fearless Chief Executive. State laws and state courts must be respected and will be. Put this in your pipe.

The continued abuse of some members of the last legislature by a few recalcitrant newspapers remind us of a fice dog barking at Grant's army.

Letter to J. H. Jordan.

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